

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 02921

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD, CA
SUBJECT: JAMIESON SEEKS TO KEEP FISHERIES AGREEMENT AND
COUNTERVAILING DUTY ISSUES SEPARATE

1. DURING PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION PERIOD JUNE 8,
NEWFOUNDLAND MP JOHN CROSBIE (CONSERVATIVE) CRITICIZED
GOC FOR NOT CONSULTING WITH PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT BEFORE
ANNOUNCING COLLAPSE OF INTERIM FISHERIES AGREEMENT AND
STRESSED THAT HE SAW RISK THAT U.S. WILL NOW DECIDE TO
IMPOSE COUNTERVAILING DUTIES ON NEWFOUNDLAND FISH AS
RETALIATION IN BOUNDARY DISPUTE.

2. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER JAMIESON REPLIED SHARPLY,
SAYING THAT HE WAS WORKING TO KEEP COUNTERVAIL AND
BOUNDARY ISSUES APART AND CHARGING THAT CROSBIE'S
CONTINUING EFFORTS TO LINK THEM WERE A DISSERVICE TO HIS
OWN FISHERMEN. JAMIESON NOTED THAT HE HAD TALKED WITH
SECRETARY VANCE PREVIOUS DAY ABOUT GROUND FISH COUNTERVAIL-
ING DUTY CASE AND HAD EXPLAINED THAT GOC DID NOT WISH
COUNTERVAIL AND BOUNDARY/FISHERIES AGREEMENT TO BECOME
LINKED. ACCORDING TO JAMIESON, SECRETARY CONCURRED AND
SAID HE TOO WOULD SEEK TO KEEP ISSUES SEPARATE. EXCERPTS
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FROM JAMIESON-CROSBIE COMMONS EXCHANGE ARE REPORTED SEPTEL.

3. COMMENT: DESPITE JAMIESON'S INTENTIONS AND EFFORTS,
WE BELIEVE THAT MEDIA AND PUBLIC WILL INTERPRET IMPOSITION
OF COUNTERVAILING DUTIES AS U.S. RETALIATION AND ESCALATION
OF DISPUTE. STATEMENTS BY INTERESTED OPPOSITION MP'S
SUCH AS CROSBIE CAN BE EXPECTED TO ENCOURAGE THIS INTER-

PRETATION. MOREOVER, THERE ARE ALSO GOC OFFICIALS WHO SEE LINKAGE OF ISSUES, AND PUBLIC REACTION THAT WOULD RESULT, AS POSSIBLY INFLUENCING U.S. TO ACCEPT CANADIAN OFFER ON SUBSIDY ELIMINATION (STATE 143074). EXSTAFF ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY MCPHAIL, FOR EXAMPLE, IN DISCUSSING JAMIESON-VANCE CONVERSATION TOLD ECONCOUNSELOR JUNE 8 THAT HE WAS "ANNOYED" BY U.S. "RACHETING UPWARD" ITS DEMANDS ON PACE OF SUBSIDY ELIMINATION AND THAT U.S. SHOULD BE AWARE OF SHARP ADVERSE REACTION IT RISKS FROM IMPOSITION OF COUNTERVAILING DUTIES IN LIGHT OF OVERALL FISHERIES SITUATION.

4. IN EVENT COUNTERVAILING DUTIES ARE TO BE IMPOSED, PUBLIC STATEMENT IN ADVANCE OF PUBLICATION IN FEDERAL REGISTER WOULD HELP TO GET ACROSS U.S. VIEWS BEFORE REACTION SETS IN. DUEMLING

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